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**Langston University Awarded Federal Funds  
to Expand Minority Entrepreneurship**

*\$155,000 Provided to Operate Oklahoma City Minority Business Development Center*

Washington, DC -- Today, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) announced a continued partnership with Langston University to operate the Oklahoma City Minority Business Development Center. The Center provides management and technical assistance to enhance entrepreneurial activity within the minority business community. An award in the amount of \$155,000 has been presented to Langston University. Ms. Nancy Alexander, Project Director, will administer the Center.

"MBDA is proud to continue our partnership with Langston University, a Historically Black College, long known for its community and economic development programs. Doing so brings us one step closer to achieving our goal of growing the number and size of African American, Asian Pacific American, Hispanic and Native American businesses in the United States," said MBDA Dallas Regional Director, John F. Iglehart.

Located in a federally designated Empowerment Zone, the Oklahoma City Minority Business Development Center, and its network of strategic partners, will focus on building and strengthening medium and large minority business enterprises. Particular emphasis will be placed on CPA firms, manufacturing entities, government contractors and other businesses poised to create new jobs and generate revenues in excess of \$0.5 million.

"The pursuit of economic opportunity and business ownership is an American dream for entrepreneurs. At MBDA, we believe that minority entrepreneurs play a crucial role in creating and sharing wealth, as well as improving the quality of life for those with whom they work and the community at-large. Given that 90 percent of the U.S. population growth through 2050 will be in minority communities, the nation must work together to achieve a goal of entrepreneurial parity," added MBDA National Director, Ronald N. Langston.

*The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is the only federal agency created specifically to foster the establishment and growth of minority-owned businesses in the United States. MBDA works closely with corporate America, academic institutions, professional trade associations and governmental agencies to help minority entrepreneurs access capital, procurement and contract opportunities, technical assistance and business development services. For more information, visit [www.mbda.gov](http://www.mbda.gov)*